

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 196211
ORIGIN SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 196211

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SHUM, IS, XA

SUBJECT: ISRAELI ATTENDANCE AT LAGOS CONFERENCE

YOU SHOULD RAISE QUESTION OF ISRAELI ATTENDANCE AT LAGOS
WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN (OR EVRON IN HIS ABSENCE) AT
EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

WE HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT ISRAEL INTENDS TO WITHDRAW FROM
THE LAGOS CONFERENCE. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS WOULD BE A
SERIOUS TACTICAL MISTAKE AND STRONGLY URGE YOU TO
RECONSIDER.

THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL HAVE WORKED CLOSELY IN OUR
PREPARATIONS FOR THIS CONFERENCE AND WE WERE LOOKING
FORWARD TO CONTINUING THIS COLLABORATION AT THE CONFERENCE
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ITSELF. IN THE ABSENCE OF AN ISRAELI DELEGATION, THE
UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES WILL VIGOROUSLY OPPOSE
EFFORTS TO TURN THE CONFERENCE INTO A FORUM FOR ATTACKS
ON ISRAEL. NONETHELESS, WE BELIEVE YOUR WITHDRAWAL WOULD
SERIOUSLY DIMINISH THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR EFFORTS AND
THOSE OF YOUR OTHER FRIENDS WHO WILL WISH TO PREVENT
UNFAIR CRITICISM AND CENSURE OF ISRAEL.

OBVIOUSLY YOUR PRESENCE WOULD NOT ASSURE THAT THE CONFERENCE WILL NOT CRITICIZE ISRAEL, BUT YOUR ABSENCE WILL EMBOLDEN YOUR OPPONENTS AND GIVE CREDENCE TO THEIR CHARGES. IF YOU ATTEND, AND MAKE A STRONG STATEMENT OF YOUR VIEWS ON APARTHEID, WE BELIEVE THIS COULD HAVE A FAVORABLE EFFECT ON THE MOOD OF THE CONFERENCE AND ON THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHOSE CAUSE THIS CONFERENCE IS INTENDED TO SERVE.

IN CONSIDERING THIS MATTER, WE KNOW YOU WILL BEAR IN MIND THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUING CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ITS FRIENDS IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS. FRANKLY WE HAD BEEN COUNTING ON YOUR PRESENCE AND YOUR HELP. WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL RECONSIDER YOUR DECISION. VANCE

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